Caustic Truths!

Noizy Music Zine

#77
Jan/Feb
2001

VAGINAL DAVIS, WINSTON SMITH, AARON OF PROBE, GANGSTER TRIVIA, and lots of reviews!!!

OUT NOW!

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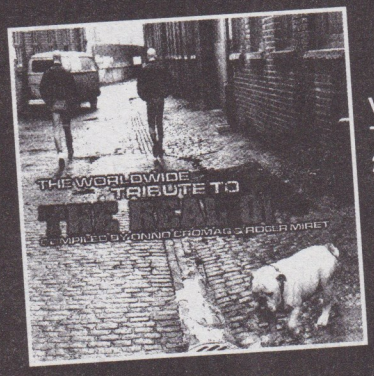

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AD Type	Dimention	$
1/6 page	2 1/2" x 5"	20
1/3 page reg.	5" x 5"	30
1/3 page long	2 1/2" x 10"	30
1/2 page	7 1/2" x 5"	40
Full page	7 1/2 x 10"	80
Full page (inside covers)		95
Full page (back cover)		100

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BACK ISSUES:

All back issues are completely gone until further notice.

We always need new contributors people so get in touch.

Disclaimer: All opinions are of the write, not CAUSTIC TRUTHS!

ON THE COVER: Mona Punk By Winston Smith

Issue#77

rose of sharon
"even the air is out of tune"
7 song cd
get caught in the undertow
and listen as it sucks you in.
10 legs and over 30 feet tall
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My Shitorial

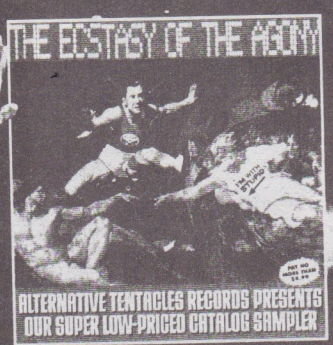
Hey there,

Here we are with another year. 2001 is kind of interesting thus far. Higher circulation, more ads, more reviews, and better music. Labels so far and wide seem to appreciate us for what we do since we have been doing it for nine years. The scene is growing and getting more segmented which kind of sucks since I thought we were all about unity. Oh well, we will do our best on that. We have quite a diverse issue with features on artist Winston Smith, gangster bios, Vaginal Davis, and the usual reviews. Well, check out the expanded site (www.caustic-truths.com) which has some selected MP3 songs and current news and tour info. Got something to say or words to spread, send it our way at editor@caustic-truths.com. You know the deal, do it now!! Thanks,

Richard of Caustic Truths!!!

P.S. Help spread the word about this zine and check out our site at www.caustictruths,com)

ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES RECORDS



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TOP 10 PICKS OF ISSUE #77

BAND	TITLE	LABEL
1. REGISTRATORS	IMAGINATION WORLD	BROKEN
2. AMDI PETERSEN S	ARME/NEUTRON BOMB	KNICK N PUNCH
3. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT	AHORA MAS QUE NUNCA.	LENUGA ARMADA
4. GYOGUN REND	FISH EYED SOUL	SCREAMING APPLE
5. A FRAMES	NEUTRON BOMB	DRAGNET
6. BONECRUSHER	FOLLOWERS OF A BRUTAL CALLING	OUTSIDER
7. HARDSHIP	STRAY	STEALTH ORDEAL
8. PINKZ	USA/YOU RE TEARING ME APART	RADIO BLAST
9. SUPERHELICOPTER	DESTROY	MANUAL WAST
10. VOORHEES	KILL YOUR IDOLS/SPLIT	INDECISION

Check out our complete Top 25 Listing at www.caustictruths.com!!

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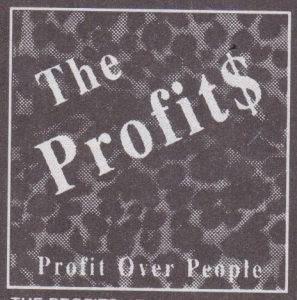

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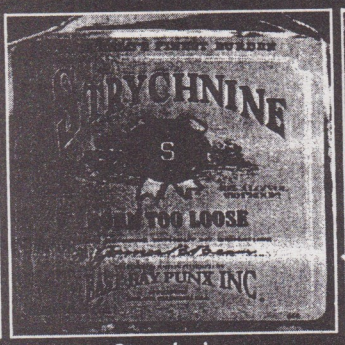
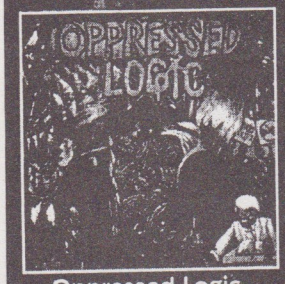


Strychnine

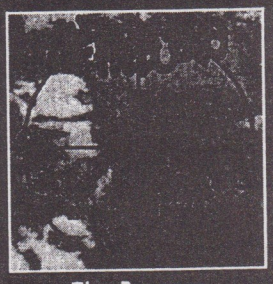
Cell Block 5

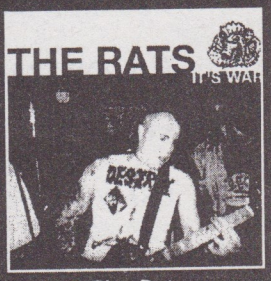
The Oozzies



Oppressed Logic

Welcome to the Bay
31 Band Compilation


The Process



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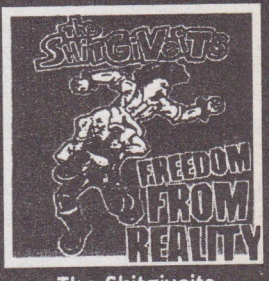

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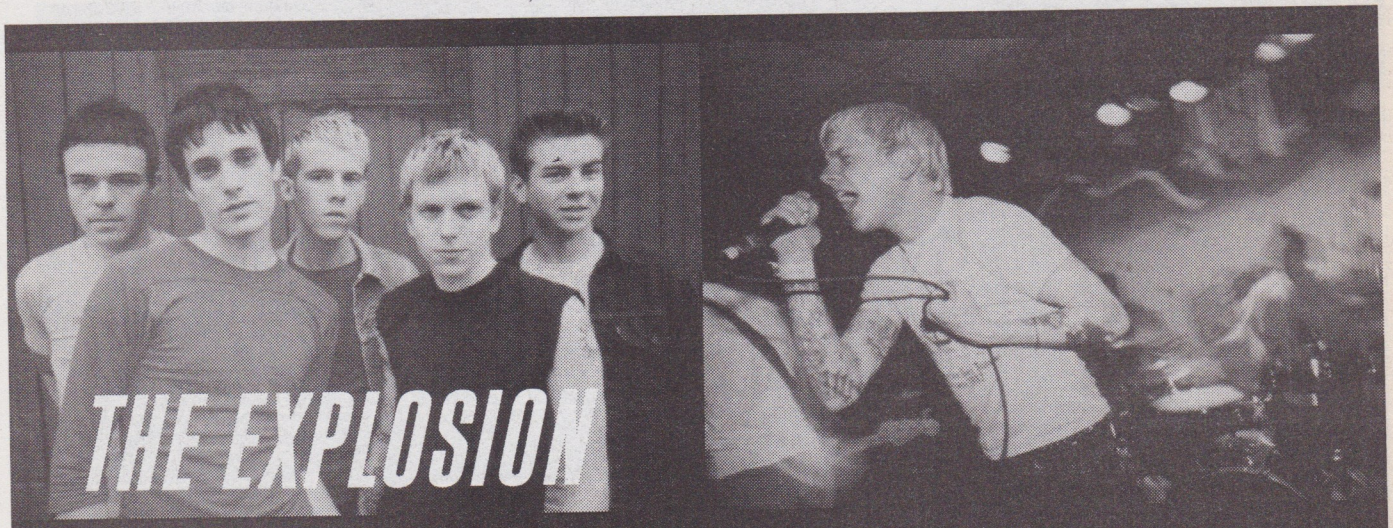

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"Hashin' It Out"
LP/CD JT1054

Joan of Arc
"The Gap"
LP/CD JT1053

Jets To Brazil
"Four Cornered Night"
DBL LP/CD JT1052

The Explosion
"Flash Flash Flash"
LP/CD JT1051

The Explosion
"The Explosion"
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THE PROBE

WHEN DID THE PROBE FIRST BEGIN AND WHAT HAVE BEEN THE UPS AND DOWNS?

1) I guess The Probe started sometime back in '91. The up part of it is that I've made many friends and done a lot of fun things as direct result of The Probe. The down part of it started a few years ago when I started to realize other people I was involved with weren't as dedicated to staying young and having fun as I was. Friends of mine grew up, got real jobs, and had kids and stuff. At one point I felt somewhat abandoned so I moved to the city to be closer to people I felt were more dedicated to punk rock and other things. That was a good experience. However, it didn't turn out to be quite the utopia I had envisioned. The fact that I'm a horrible businessman has also been a problem because I'm often working 70 hours a week to make up for all of the money I've lost doing Probe Records. These days I'm in a good situation because I have a girlfriend who can relate to what I'm doing (or not doing) with my life and she's up for the ride. It really helps to have a partner in crime because doing all of this takes a lot of work, and at times I've felt overwhelmed.

HAS NUDITY IN YOUR ZINE EVER CAUSED PROBLEMS? WHAT IS IT IN THE LONG THAT YOU THINK MAKES PEOPLE WANNA SEND NAKED PICS OF THEMSELVES?

2) Sometimes I forget that nudity is a big problem with some people and then I get this wave of hate that reminds me. They are a small minority, but some people are deeply disturbed by nudity and they hate me for printing naked photos. It's because of these people that others are sometimes afraid to be associated with me. Recently a band decided against doing another record with Probe because a former girlfriend of the guitarist was naked in the last issue. It was her idea to be in The Probe and her current boyfriend took the photos, but her ex hates me for it. I mean really hates me! She, however, wants to do more photos for the next issue. Another situation was with a girl who had a problem with my brother because she saw a Probe a few years ago. My brother has nothing at all to do with The Probe. He has no interest in naked photos whatsoever. He's a sixth grade school teacher who has lived with the same girlfriend for five years. He's only slept with three girls in his entire life, but this girl calls him a "sick perverted weirdo". I can only imagine what she thinks of me.

As for the second part of your question it is very easy for me to understand why girls want to have naked photos taken of themselves because I would do the same thing if I were a girl. When I was in 8th grade I used to have a good friend whose house I would spend a lot of time at. I'd sleep over all the time and stuff. His older half sister was a Senior in high school and she was always putting herself in situations where I would see her naked or half dressed. For Example she would pretend she didn't know I was awake in the next room and walk into the bathroom completely naked and start her bath water. She'd leave the door open every time. One time her dad yelled at her because she was making breakfast wearing nothing but skimpy underwear and a half shirt - pretending she was oblivious to me. One time she was wearing thin, white, see-through underwear. She said, "Oh, oops, you can't see through this can you?" I said, "Oh, it's not that bad". I was a dorky 8th grader. She wasn't trying to pick up on me at all. She just had fun being sexy. I had masturbatory fantasies about her for years. The thing is that in most of my fantasies I would put myself in her place, as the sexy girl, not as the guy looking at the sexy girl - or it was a combination of the two actually. I can never feel that sexy as a guy. It doesn't do anything for me. When my girlfriend checks out my "cute butt" I feel more goofy than sexy. I only find sexiness in women so I need to live vicariously through them to feel it. If I were a girl I'd be naked in every issue of The Probe. The thing I don't understand are the guys who send me photos of their dick. I get that all the time - just the dick. I guess some guys enjoy that on some level, but I can't explain it.

WHAT DISTINCTIONS

DO YOU MAKE BETWEEN NUDITY & PORNOGRAPHY?

3) I hate almost all pornography. I call it "sex industry". I detest the standard "look" that the industry promotes. Thin girls with dyed blond hair, heavy make-up, and ridiculous breast implants. It's grotesque and I understand why porn has a bad name. I hear the tide is turning. I've read there are editors and directors (mostly women) entering the industry that are successful working with a wide variety of women. I don't actually consider The Probe "porn", but it's obvious to me most people don't see the difference. The difference between nudity and porn is all in individual perception.

HAVING BEEN A TRUCK DRIVER, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE STRANGE/FUNNY/SCARY INCIDENTS YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED?

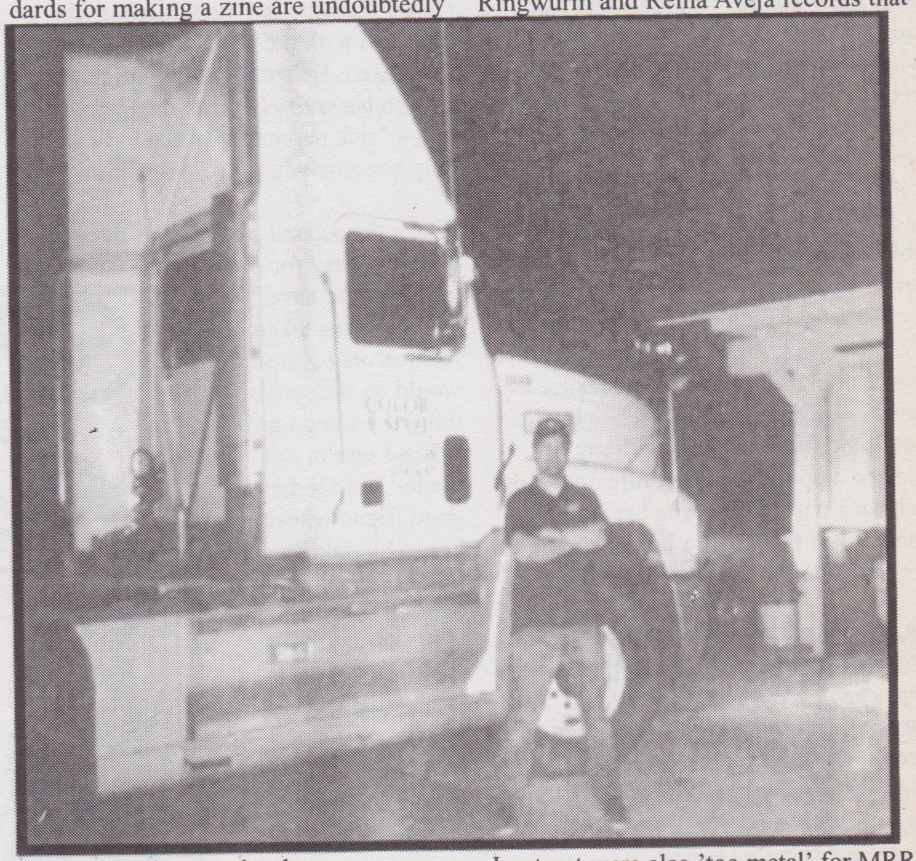
4) I hope I never get another trucking job. I'm burnt on it. Once I almost flipped an 85,000 pound double trailer. I remember the cab tipping, looking in the mirror and seeing both my semi and pull trailer wheels in the air. When nine wheels slammed back to the ground my jaw dropped open and I must have coasted about a half mile before I came back to my senses. I had dumped about 4,000 pounds of tomatoes off the top, both trailers overloaded, but I was carrying a lot of excess water. The combination of that and the fact the on ramp was sharper than I anticipated almost tipped me. Before that happened I was a total bad ass, always whipping around turns at optimum speeds. After that I never recovered, I never could whip around a turn again, especially in a cab over.

WHAT INFLUENCES YOUR ZINE?

5) Beer, sex, and punk rock.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THE ZINE SCENE OVERALL?

6) From around '89 to '93 or so I was always scanning review sections for zines to order or trade for. I still kind of skim through the reviews, but not the way I used to. The reason is because the zine review sections are four or five times thicker than they used to be. Not long ago it was really tough to start a zine. "Desktop publishing" was nowhere near as easy as it is now. Plus, very few people outside of punk had heard of zines. An editor had to really be inspired or driven to publish a zine. I'm sure there are just as many good zines published today. It's just that you have to wade through a lot of less inspiring zines to find them. Not that most zines are horrible, but the standards for making a zine are undoubtedly lower than they used to be.



ARE YOU PRO OR ANTI MRR?

7) I'm pro MRR. I think they did a good job of surviving the punk rock explosion without changing too much. My problem has more to do with all the new melodic punk bands that are squeezing out true punk rock attitude by sheer force in numbers. Most of these bands have nothing to do with punk rock other than the fact they were influenced by Green Day and Rancid so they dye their hair, wear anarchy t-shirts, and sing about girls. These bands still get reviewed and half of them are Republicans and Christians. I'm a sub teacher and I see these kids every day. There is nothing punk rock about them. I also hate all the fucking labels who put out records by these fuckers. Then you have heavy bands like Dystopia or Reina Aveja who don't get reviewed in MRR because they are too heavy, loud, and ugly to be called punk rock. Meanwhile, Dystpies is one of Gilman's largest draws, totally DIY, totally political, but "too metal" for MRR. The Ringwurm and Reina Aveja records that I put out were also 'too metal' for MRR. When Reina Aveja came to the Bay Area, Margaret, the guitarist, had me take photos of her out in front of MRR (no one was home). She was crushed that MRR didn't review their record because when she was 15 years her actual goal in life was to get a band together and get written up in MRR. It was her bible growing up. Her band is

completely punk in how they operate. They only play punk rock shows - never metal clubs. It's not MRR's fault but these days the mall rats are a huge influence on the punk rock scene. Hopefully things will return to normal when the next fad comes along.

ARE CALIFORNIA STRIP JOINTS REALLY THE WAY THEY'RE PORTRAYED IN MOVIES: GLITZY, SLEAZY DUMPS?

8) How in the fuck should I know?? Did I ever write anything about going to strip clubs? The only place I've been to is the Lusty Lady. I've been there three times because it's across the street from the Purple Onion and a lot of people in the punk scene work there. Two MRR volunteers and two punk band members I know were jizz moppers there. One Epicenter worker "danced" there. It's not like a normal strip club. It's just this one room where girls are naked and then men step into these booths and pay look at them. They have no direct contact with the naked women. The place became the first strip club ever to unionize.

SO I TAKE IT NO PORN STAR SIGHTINGS. ANY HOLLYWOOD RUN-INS?

9) No, the closest thing to a celebrity run-in I ever had was seeing Nicholas Cage walking down Gough St. in SF. He was incognito so I didn't bother him. He's my favorite actor. I also once received an autographed photo of the guy who played Horshack on Welcome Back Kotter. I had read it was his birthday in Dynomite magazine and sent him a Happy Birthday letter. I was like 8 years old.

WHAT'S UP WITH PROBE RECORDS?

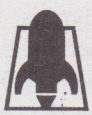
10) There is a shitload of stuff coming out on Probe Records. Most of this stuff will not get reviewed in MRR so write and ask for a catalog. I have the best mail-order service in punk rock. Keri usually sends out the orders the same day we get them. The prices are cheap and, if you request it, you get a free naked photo of Tracy with each purchase. Tracy doesn't mind, "the more of me out there the better". If my bankruptcy goes through without a hitch, and I make my money back on these releases, I have other bands I want to do records with.

ANY FINAL WORDS?

11) I'm trying to get some days off from my night job so I can get work done on Probe #8. Look for a new issue soon. Thanks and girls, your nakedness is welcome.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Sadly, Aaron decided to shut the doors of Probe Zine and soon Probe Records as of November 2000. Check out www.proberecords.com for more info.



ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT

"Group Sounds"

the new album
in stores 3.6.2001

VAGRANT RECORDS • 2118 WILSHIRE BLVD #361 • SANTA MONICA • CA 90403 • WWW.VAGRANT.COM

The Story of Vaginal Davis

Vaginal Davis is an undeniable cherry bomb! She's a performance/conceptual artist, rock star, movie star, a writer, a lover and a fighter...YEAH YEAH YEAH! She's the reigning queen of the homocore scene. I had the chance to interview her through the miracles of modern technology (internet) and she gave me the low-down on everything from political punk to the cute boys she's had sex with! OH MY! She's so sexy, smart, and funny! By Cody.

WHAT'S YOUR SUN SIGN?

I m not that versed in Astrology. What exactly is a sun sign? I know that I m a Pisces which is represented by the fish which is appropriate since I m very Tuna or Al-tuna as the case may be.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

2. My favorite color is heliotrope. Which is a softer, warmer more reddish hued member of the purple familia.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

3. I guess it goes without saying that I m a meat eater. And a voracious man trap I might add. I love the London Broil from my favorite LA restaurant Taylor s Steak House in the Wilshire Centre District bordering Koreatown and Silverlake South. Taylor s is a very olde school eatery in that its Raymond Chandleresque with comfy vermillion colored nagahyde booths and the clientle is made up of former gangsters who are now in their 70s and 80s. The Bartenders really know how to make a great Vodka Gimlet straight up.

WHO,S YOUR FAVORITE MAN IN ROCK?

4. It s a tie between Billy Bragg and Paul Weller. I ve had a crush on Mr. Weller since I was a weenager. I go-go danced for the Jam when they first played LA at the infamous Starwood back in . . .well I don t like to date myself. I was wearing Courrege. The 60s designer was going through a rebirth in the late 70s due to punk. Mr. Weller and I had a bit of a flirtation back then, which continued when I was editor of the LA based mod periodical Twist Magazine in the early 80 s. He was our cover boy. He does fancy sepia toned girls, and being that I m an Anglophile it was a match made in Anglican heaven. When he married D.C Lee who use to be in Wham we stopped keeping in touch, but on a recent visit to LA I ran into him at a dinner party given by dinge queen former The Face photographer Johnny Rozia. He hasn t aged very well, but was still as charming as ever and was eager to re-connect with me if you know what I mean, but I gracefully said, No thank you, Please I guess in all earnestness I have to go with Billy Bragg his gruff looks I find very appealing. I ve never met him so there is nothing to ruin the fantasy. Mr. W does have a giant peterfication, long and bulbously thick.

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE WOMEN IN ROCK?

5. Without a doubt I would have to say Chrissy Hyndes. I d go all out lesbiana for her and believe you me that is saying something because I m a lady who loves the men.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF POLITICAL PUNK MUSIC?

6. Any band that would all out call themselves a political punk band I d have to roll my thyroid eyes at. Rage Against The Machine are considered very political. They may or may not be sincere I don t know. I remember them when they were Brian Grillo (Extra Fancy) backup band called Lock-Up. After that project folded they re-grouped without Brian and emerged as Rage Against the Machine to huge success. Back in the early 90s Lock-Up use to open for my concept band PME. Recently I did a visiting artist at a University and a gorgeous young latino boy came up to me and asked if I liked Rage. He was wearing a t-shirt with Che Guevara s image on it. And I told him I like the T-shirt, and asked what he thought about Che and he said, No this isn t Che this is Rage Against the Machine He obviously didn t know who Che Guevara was insisting he was the image was one of the guys in Rage. So it seems to me that their political message certainly is not sinking in.

IS FUGAZI A QUEER-CORE BAND?

7. Fugazi outqueers Pansy Division as the most faggoty band I know, but they are getting a little long on the tooth. Ian needs to get rid of that possessive girlfriend of his. She likes keeping him boring and middle class. If he doesn t break free from her soon he s going to wind up in his 40s, balding and very sexually frustrated. He s like Thurston Moore, who wants to live the carefree equally dull life of an urban gay blade, but is too frightened to make the ultimate switch. Actually I think Thurston and Ian should stay playing straight especially Thurston now that he has that new Lesbian baby Coco. Kim Gordon and I even get along now that she has a kid, whereas before she thought I was a bad influence on her ganymede husband. I never thought he was attractive when he was young so I certainly don t want him now that he s middle aged. So she really never had anything to fear like I would be snatching the dicque out of her mouth. Its funny in my other concept band Black Fag with Beck s mom Bibbe Hansen (Once the youngest of the Warhol Superstars)we made fun of the uber forced sincerity of band s like Fugàzi and Nation of Ullyses.

DOES JON SPENCER HAVE A HAIRY BACK?

8. He and his wife Christina wanted to have a hot buttered threegy with me.

"Kim Gordon and I even get along now that she has a kid, whereas before she thought I was a bad influence on her ganymede husband. "

...Vaginal Davis

he got angry that I only wanted to do it with his wife.

HOW WAS PERFORMING WITH LETIGRE?

9. Performing with LeTigre gave me hope for the future. I m usually very cynical, but at the shows we did together i never saw such a great bunch of extremely smart kids. I go through periods where I don t want to perform. I feel people don t deserve to be entertained by me, like they should entertain themselves. Me and Kembra Pfahler of the Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black both get into these kinds of moods. Its easy to feel taken for granted, but the crowds at the LeTigre show were giving so much back and were so delightful that it restored my faith in the new breed as being more than just angst ridden morons. There are actually a lot of kids out there who read and are interested in more than just the most banal of pop culture references. Boy the music scene really needs LeTigre now.

IS KIM GORDON A COLD-HEARTED BITCH?

10. No I actually like Kim Gordon. I just love ragging on her. We ve had our differences in the past because she sometimes doesn t have a sense of humour about herself. But having a child has definitely mellowed her. All she ever really wanted was a baby anyway. Thurston can do whatever he wants now. He could take a boy lover and I m sure she wouldn t even raise an eyebrow. I don t really care for children, but their Saaphic daugher is really a cool kid. Though I strongly believe that people need to pas rigourous exams before being allowed to have children.

HOW DID YOU AND BRUCE LA BRUCE BEGIN WORKING TOGETHER?

11. Bruce and I were both doing our own magazines and making our own films in different parts of the world. We were working on similar themes but didn t know each other. When we finally connected it was so perfect and so right. I guess we re both credited for starting the homocore scene via self publishing, experimental films and bands (Bruce s former zine partner G.B. Jones of the dykecore hellcasts Fifth Column). Our first collaboration was my contributing the the legendary JD s zine in the late 80 s then Bruce started following me around the globe filming me for a documentary called Truth or Nair. Bruce got rolled by a trick in San Francisco and lost most of the footage, except one reel and that stuff is what he used for Super 8 * his second feature film that includes punk hearthrobs Richard Kern and Ben Weazel.

WHO IS YOUR BIGGEST ROLE MODEL?

12. Angela Davis whose name I sexualized in creating my persona of Vaginal Davis.

WHAT,S THE BEST ADVICE YOU WERE EVER GIVEN?

13. Don t go to sleep with your make-up on.

WHAT ARE THE GROUPIE BOYS LIKE WHEN TOURING?

14. When you are in a band and you re on tour cute boys are way too intimidated to approach you. Like all girl bands a drag queen usually only gets girl groupies, who are very aggressive in trying to have sex with you, but its not really YOU just the fact you re a musician in a band. The only men who tend to go after me are girl band geeks, who can really weird you out, but usually they are harmless. Because I have such a strong sexual image. I tend to attract a lot of freaks, stalkers and what I call Eve Harrington s who aren t necessarily interested in me, but want to use me to get to my more famous friends and associates. If I could help their careers I d first help my own. I ve always been an industry outsider and always will be that s why I can fearlessly speak my mind without worrying about what people think. I have nothing to lose. Once in a blue moon I do get something going on with some hot cute boys. I did a visiting artist recently at Harvard and had a nice menage with these gorgeous sexy freshmen boys. I love it when upper middle class white boys can let go of their inhibitions and just get down and dirty. That s the ultimate revolution because of you can free your ass your mind will follow.

I did two freerange, cornfed redheaded twin farmboys when I played the University of Indiana at Bloomington and the townie rock club 2nd Story. That was probably the most wild time making two brothers get all incestousy with each other. There are stil libertines amoung us.

WHAT WILL YOU BE WORKING ON NEXT?

15. Well I ll be collaborating with some Canadian art collective from Winnipeg in Canada s Manitoba country in November. We ll be sponsored by Wayne Baerwaldt s Plug-In Editions Gallery and will have a video installation in the Venice Bienele. Most people don t know that I m also a visual artist not just a performance and conceptual artist. I m known for my work in almost every medium. I ve managed to keep a relative low profile internationally which I m happy about.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PUNK?

16. Faggot like a tight boy or he s my bitch. The first wave of punk was actually very queer centered very female centered. Those early years 76-78. It wasn t until punk went suburban around 79 and it got injected with that rush of testosterone that produced the hardcore scene and things

became more homophobic. Initially it was very queer and very art oriented. When the jock mentality came into the picture the scene changed. I never really considered myself a punk in the true sense. Its funny how I ve somewhat become an icon in the scene and also the inspiration for the homo-core and riot and post riot grrl movements. All that was by accident I assure you.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERFORMANCES LIKE?

17. My performances are very hard to describe. They are all very conceptual in nature and deal with issues of race, class, gender and sex.Its all highly parodic. Nothing is left unscathed. I like taking the piss
out of everything and everyone. And its presented in an unorthodox fashion. On the surface it may seem very traditional, but I tweek everything I touch. For 5 years I hosted and DJ-ed the punk rock beer bust club Sucker in Silverlake. People thought they were going to a rock venue and seeing some bands and drinking some brewskis, what they didn t expect was that they d be sucked into my Vagilaic vortex. A lot of the indie rock bands and punk bands that played the club wound up art directed by me. When you come into my life you wind up art directed whether you want to be or not. I also got the kids that would come to my club to loosen up. LA is such a shrill city. The midwest is much looser then big cities like LA and New York. Also LA is very biggoted and closed minded. I find people in the midwest and in small towns and hamlets much more open and freaky in more interesting and subversive ways then in the big cities. Now that my mother is dead there is nothing holding me to LA anymore so I plan to move to Zurich, Switzerland. I performed their last year doing a visiting artist at the prestigious art school and had a wondeful time with those humpy Swiss/German boys. Zurich is one of the cleanest cities. You can munch on pussy right off of the sidewalk. My other choice would be to live in Toronto, Montreal, London or Paris.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF GAY CULTURE?

18. There is no tolerance in gay culture for individualism. the gays as i like to call them are conformity wilderbeasts. I relate more to homophobe brutes then I do with the mainstream gay world. Gay culture is all about consumerism and commercial hype. There was once a time when to be gay you were part of outlaw culture and identified with minorities and criminals. It was more interesting to be gay and live outside of society. Today gay = spend here now.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE BANDS?

19. I love bands with a sense of whimsy and quirkyness to them. I love the Christian band from New Jersey The Danielson Family and what s the name of that brother and sister act from I don t remember where, excuse my Alzheimer s for acting up. This new country group called The Acres who do original material in the style of 1920s Appleachian mountain music, they are high on my list. Don Pyle s Phonocomb I adored them also his Shadowy Men From Shadowy Planet, Big Black, Rapeman. Steve Albini produced my last PME CD The White to Be Angry and GB Jones 5th Column my all time favorite plus Human Ashtrays, Danko Jones, Hello I m a Truck, Nervous Gender. Serge Gainsbourg and Sandie Shaw they aren t bands but I love their music. I m becoming such a recluse that I hardly go out to see bands anymore unless its for a writing gig doing music journalism which I sometimes partake in though I don t even really like writing for magazines anymore. I ve been working on an art book for Plug In Editions and when that comes out it should be something spectacular. Also a novel about my mother called Mary Magdelene which is he real name.

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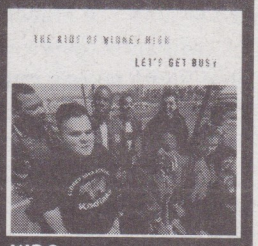

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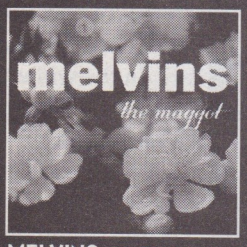

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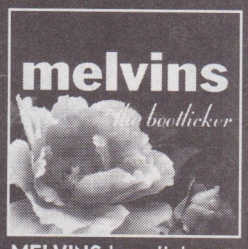

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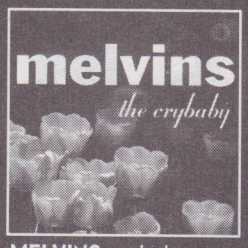

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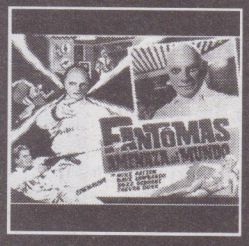

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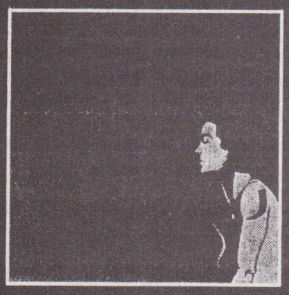

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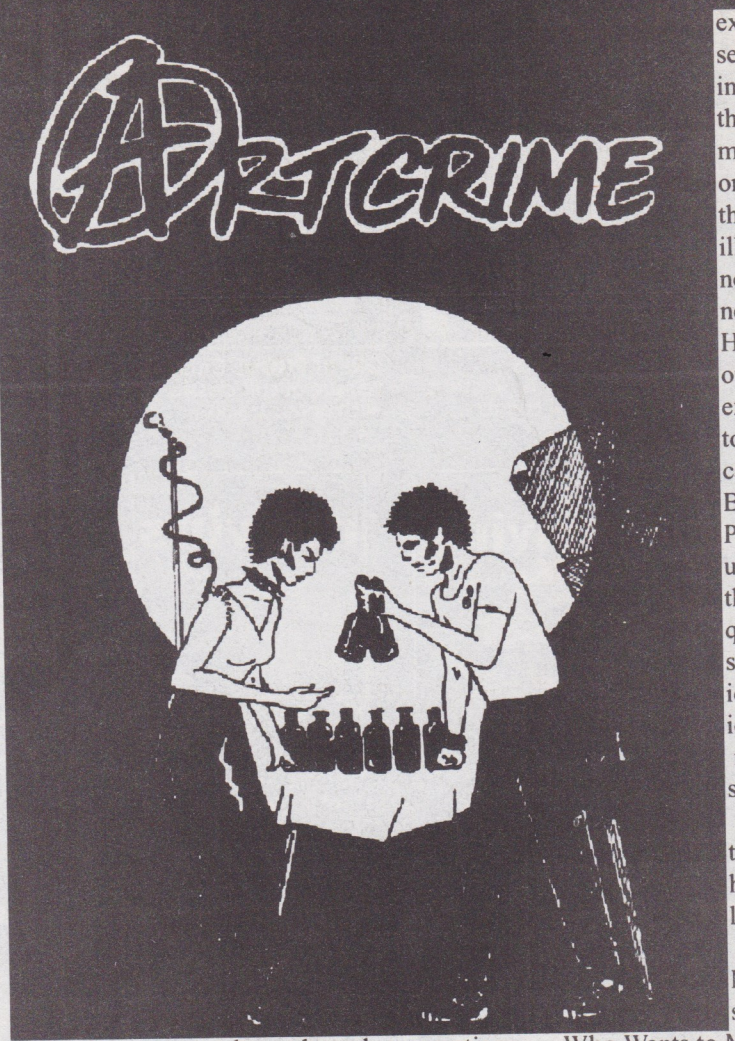
Slicing City Life with Winston Smith

By Michelle Valdez



From flying cars to scurrying around San Francisco in search of swill and obscure artifacts, Winston Smith takes a minute to tell it like it isn t.

The subversive San Francisco artist has been slicing up vintage magazine images since the 70s, when the days were plentiful and punk was palpable. Fast forward to the 21st Century and you ll find a mastermind who figured out how to make a living off of glue sticks and Xacto knives. That s no small feat, considering that he managed to trudge through the last 20 years clutching a priceless characteristic called street cred. No longer an obscure cultural reference, Winston Smith pieces together a precarious world and imagines a future full of fools.

Winston creates pictures that propel viewers into worlds where women cuddle heavy artillery, money grows on trees and a trilobyte scurries down the spine of a stupendous snake. So, what does the future hold for a visionary of such apocalyptic appeal? In a recent interview, the notorious prankster dissected previous predictions of a sterile, euphoric new century for the masses.

I always thought the future would be full of spaceships and robots and flying cars. Where s my bloody flying car? I mean, hell that s what they told us we d have, Smith ranted.

Heli-ports on top of our houses and Flash Gordon-style clothes with spiky shoulders and ray guns and anti-gravity belts. It s the 21st century now and I want my fucking flying car, god damn it

I just spent the week-end digging ditches and hauling lumber. I didn t see no damn robots out there doing it. Where are the robots they promised us? Here it is, the year 2000 and not a robot in sight. Nothing s changed. Except that prices are astronomically higher, half of us are homeless, almost as many are unemployed, wages are lower, sweatshops abound, corporations are in control, and there are no parking places anywhere. I must say, I m very disappointed in the future, he said.

Regular gigs with Red Herring, SPIN, Playboy, The New Yorker and Metro Magazine in Santa Cruz keep him busy cutting out collages full of corporate mockery and colorful chaos. Not bad for a dyslexic, disaffected dropout who cuts up old pieces of paper. The artistic process for Winston is one of solitude and spontaneous synthesis.

First, I regain consciousness around 1 or 2 in the afternoon. After I come-to (usually takes about two hours), I start to process images by sifting through thousands of pages of archaic periodicals and books, looking for just the right image to intermingle in some unwholesome way with another innocent image. That can keep me occupied for hours, he said.

With years of experience and experiments, Winston seems to be hydroplaning through the halls of the major media metropolis. At one time only a green pixel on the radar of magazine illustration, his work now bombards the optic nerves of thousands. His style is both hilarious and caustic, always exploding with the will to provoke. His bizarre career will take him to Berlin, London and Paris in the winter for upcoming exhibits. In the meantime, he s quick to chuckle at the state of affairs in American pop culture, specifically the latest surge of reality-based television shows.

I don t watch much television but I ve heard of those shows like Survivor and Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire, etc. They should just call it Who Wants to Marry a Home Owner, since they just came out with a report that an average 3 bedroom condo in San Francisco costs about a million dollars to own. Who wants to marry a divorced, part-time waitress with two kids and a crack habit would be far more interesting, at least a little more reality-based, Winston said. And Survivor seems like an updated Lord of the Flies attempt at psycho-drama, turning the lowest animal instincts into high entertainment.

The weathered artist quickly schemes up his own horrific, reality-based television show and he calls it Baby Gladiatorial Combat. CBS, are you taking notes here?

First we d start out with babies just waddling around the arena, bumping into each other till one of them tipped over. Then we d go to the next level where the babies would be armed with Nerf(swords (soft sponge rubber,

Slicing City Life with Winston Smith

very safe), he elaborated, Then at the third stage, the babies would be hopped up on steroids and they d be armed with spiky chrome armor and sharp daggers. They could clobber one another over and over till one baby was victorious. No plot. No rules. Just pure entertainment. Kind of a cross between championship wrestling and Teletubbies.

As a sort of benevolent afterthought, he decides no guns would be allowed on Baby Gladiatorial Combat, because after all, this is a family program.

And before you start asking about all the logistics, he s already way ahead of you.

I know what you re thinking: But, Winston, where would we get the babies from to put on the show? No problem, I got it all worked out. For phase one and two we ll have more than we need. Have you any idea how many stage mothers there are out there that are desperate to get their cute little bundle of joy on television? That part s a cinch, he explained. Only one small wrinkle lies in the third phase of production, particularly the clobbering scene.

Didn t Newt Gingrich say that when we outlawed abortion we could just open more orphanages? The Christian Right is eager to place the surplus population into positions that will contribute to society. Now s there is a chance, he said. I think the show would be a smashing success.

When he s not planning hit TV series, Winston likes to whittle away the days at Mario s Cigar Shop in North Beach and occasionally saunters into Speck s Nautical Bar. Sleep is something he hasn t seen a lot of lately, but that hasn t stopped him from having lucid and sometimes puzzling dreams. The other night I dreamt of Ronald Reagan that makes it a nightmare of sorts. Last night I had an entertaining dream, if not entirely weird. I dreamt that I had somehow constructed a Jules Verne-style flying machine. It was enormous shaped like a Zeppelin with a series of Arial propellers that somehow kept it aloft. Only, true to my ineptitude with all things mechanical, it never got off the ground. So my friends and I somehow maneuvered it through the countryside till I got the bright idea to enter it in an art show as a work of art (since it had no practical usefulness.) But that didn t work either, he lamented.

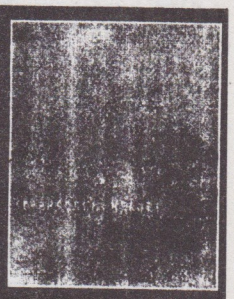
We somehow found ourselves in Italy. Then things became progressively more frustrating as I tried to deal with Italian bureaucrats, all in Italian, no less...and on and on it went.

The collage connoisseur lived in Italy for a brief time and says the scenery sometimes slips into his slumber. As a self-proclaimed insomniac, he tends to sleep in and stay up late working on his art til 4 or 5 in the morning. I must have been born in Hong Kong because my circadian rhythm is way off from the rest of the population, he insists.

> ***"First, I regain consciousness around 1 or 2 in the afternoon. After I come-to (usually takes about two hours), I start to process images by sifting through thousands of pages of archaic periodicals and books, looking for just the right image to intermingle in some unwholesome way with another innocent image. That can keep me occupied for hours,"***

With another full-size book and a calendar in the works, it s enough to make you think the guy s a workaholic. But in the world of Winston Smith, everything is not as it seems. I wish I could just say that I get up early. I jog 8 miles round the wharf. I eat only organic grains and juices. I attend lectures on art and color, and then I volunteer at the local handicapped shelter while teaching a class on The Role of the Artist in Contemporary Culture at the local community college, but I can t, he shrugs. I m just a ne er-do-well high school drop-out slob trying to squeeze by on as little work as possible.

>> STRANGERS*AS*HEROES



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Bad Gangsters Do Bad Things

By Hamish

ALBERT ANASTASIA (1903-57)

Known as the Lord High Executioner and the Mad Hatter because he was a kill crazy lunatic with a berserk wrath. While watching TV, he caught a new report dealing with Brooklyn resident Arnold Schuster. Schuster had spotted the notorious bank robber Willie Sutton on the subway one evening and informed police who quickly captured Sutton. An enraged Sutton bolted our of his chair yelling, I can t strand squealers! Hit that guy! Schuster was killed March 8, 1952.

ARIZONA DONNIE CLARK 'MA' BARKER

Had lover Arthur V. Dunlop killed because she tired of his incessant complaining. While on the lam in 1931 with her four criminal gang sons. Dunlop s bullet ridden body was found in a Wisconsin lake in 1932.

BONNIE PARKER & CLYDE BARROW

During one of their penny-ante robberies in Oklahoma and both armed with double barrel shotguns, they each blew a man s head clean off his body.

JOSEPH BONANNO

Aka Joe Bananas, he ran a funeral home that had specially constructed coffins; when a legit corpse was being buried, the mourners never knew that the extremely heavy casket containing their loved one featured a cleverly designed false bottom which hid the body of a Mafia murder victim.

LOUIS 'LEPKE' BUCHALTER

Crated Murder Inc. , an enforcement arm of hitmen who could be sent anywhere in the US to kill any and all who opposed the interest of the national organization crime syndicate. This enterprise became murder for profit and any syndicate officer (once cleared as being safe) could order anyone else to be killed for a price. This did not extend to non-Mob members.

ALPHONSE CAPONE (1899-1947)

Aka Scarface, aka Shorky. At one of his elegant and expensive tuxedo banquets, he used a baseball bat to bash the heads in of three men attempting to double-cross him and assume power. All three men had their skulls crushed. . . . when a saloon owner (who was hijacking his beer trucks) uttered a racial slur to him after earlier humiliating one of his friends, Capone emptied six bullets into his head at point blank range and calmly walked away. . . . Engineered the infamous St. Valentine s Day Massacre of 1929 in which five Capone men (four dressed as cops) ordered seven men of a rival gang into a garage, mowing them down with gunfire. One of the victims was innocent and in fact a real mechanic with no gang affiliations. . . Became the first ever gangster to have a newspaperman killed (Jake Lingle of the Chicago Tribune); Lingle was a reporter on the payroll who borrowed $50,000 for a dog track operation. He never delivered on the loan and was also accused of betrayal. He was found in a subway underpass with his brains blown out.

VICENT COLL

In the July 1932 incident that earned him his nickname of Mad Dog , a drive-by shooting meant to kill a rival gangster and his two bodyguards failed with Coll indiscriminately hitting five small children all aged 2 -5 on a sidewalk, some shot four and five times. It was the first time innocent bystanders had been children and all but one of the kids survived. One unfortunate youngster had his stomach blown away by .45 caliber slugs. On the lam and knowing it was only a matter of time before captured trial, he kidnapped and held a bootlegger s top aide hostage for a $30,000 ransom and when paid, Coll used the money to pay for his legal defense in which he was acquitted.

FRANK COSTELLO

Labeled The Prime Minister of Crime , he had an early bootlegging associate shot to pieces in a 1932 Manhatten Street ambush because the man was too flashy in courting the press and talked too much.

JOHN THOMAS DIAMOND

Aka Jack Legs Diamond, aka the Clay Pigeon . After killing a rival in June 1929 in front of 25 witnesses in a nightclub, he had the barman and three witnesses murdered and another four

people including the hat check girl disappear. He was never charged with any wrongdoing.

JOHN HERBERT DILLINGER (1903-34)

The FBI s first every Public Enemy No. 1. Is said to have associated with/ assembled the most professional and best bank robbing gang in American criminal history.

CHARLES ARTHUR

Bad Gangsters Do Bad Things

FLOYD

Aka Pretty Boy Floyd, he and an accomplice in 1930 picked up two girls from a Kansas City whorehouse and needlessly killed their boyfriends before heading toward Kentucky . . . Considered by many to be a Robin Hood and robbed so many Midwest banks that insurance rates in Oklahoma doubled in one year . . . The most infamous act attributed to him (the June 1933 Kansas City Massacre in which five men - a convict heading to prison and four lawmen of whom one was FBI - were gunned down in a train station) in fact never involved Floyd but the press blamed him and the murders only succeeded in worsening his reputation.

VITONE 'VITO' GENEVESE

Certainly one of the most dreaded and merciless of Mafia chiefs. Believed to have been involved in his first wife s death in 1929 as she died of unknown causes . . . In 1932 he met a married woman whose husband was found strangled to death weeks later atop a Manhattan building. A tenant who stumbled upon the murder was killed with a bullet to the brain and the two killers themselves later disappeared. Genovese and the woman later married and had two kids . . . Known for fleecing wealthy merchants in rigged card games, in September 1934 he bilked an Italian businessman for $160,000 in a restaurant owned by one of his mobsters. When the same mobster demanded a $35,000 cut, he was rubbed out days later . . . During WWII in Naples 1944, he worked as an interpreter for US Army Intelligence by squealing on black marketeers and once they were imprisoned, he simply took over their rackets. He was sent back to the US because of close ties to Mussolini and contributing more than $250,000 to the fascists for a party headquarters . . . Engineered the death of a rival being held under protective custody in a Brooklyn jail by lacing the man s gallstone tablets with enough poison to kill eight horses.

SAMUEL GIANCANA (1908-75)

Aka Momo, aka Sam Mooney. Many believe him the most ruthless underworld killer amongst the Italians in organized crime . . . From age 17 to the end of his life, he was arrested 70 times, countless of which were suspicion of murder - three before he was 20 . . . Controversy will forever speculate on his alleged involvement with the JFK assassination as well as ties to Frank Sinatra.

JOHN GOTTI

Known as the Dapper Don and Teflon Don . Is reputed to have told his men that failure to obey his orders would result in their houses and families being blown up . . . When his youngest son was struck and killed by an oncoming car, the devastated and remorseful driver (with no mob affiliations whatsoever) was later found shot and killed - death widely suspected ordered by Gotti.

ALVIN 'OLD CREEPY' KARPIS

This notorious Canadian from Montreal teamed with the Barkers and was considered by J. Edgar Hoover as the last of the big shot gangster .

CHARLES 'LUCKY' LUCIANO

Real name Salvatore Luciana. By far the absolute king of prostitution in N.Y. In his early days of pimping he had his goons shake down and hold lowly whores at gunpoint so they d surrender half their meager and often pathetic income to his protection . Some of the girls had their legs broken when Madams refused to pay up in brothels.

'MACHINE GUN' JACK McGURN

Real name James Vincenzo DeMora. Considered by Capone as his most expert and trustworthy gunman as well as feared of his killers. As his trademark, he would place nickels in his victims palms as a sign of utter contempt . . . In November 1927, he had singer/comedian Joe E. Lewis pistol whipped and throat slashed for refusing to renew a nightclub contract. Lewis miraculously survived and resumed a successful career.

GEORGE 'BABYFACE' NELSON (1908-34)

Real name Lester Gillis. Perhaps the most violent, insane, trigger-happy, bloodthirsty psycho of all bank robbers. With his lunatic tantrums, is said to have went out of his way to murder for the sheer joy of it . . . In March 1934, he helped to break Dillinger out of an Indiana jail and in the process as the getaway driver, he coldly killed a policeman with a bullet between the eyes . . . During a bank job, he went berserk hurling himself over a railing, jumped on a desk, and blasted four shots through a window to kill an unsuspecting cop who was unaware of the heist in progress.

CHARLES DION 'DEANIE' O'BANNION

Altar boy gone wrong and the first ever victim of the handshake murder . As hired muscle for William Randolph Hearst s Herald Examiner ; he and his enforcers beat newsstand proprietors senseless when they refused to carry Hearst s paper . . . While attending a play, he excused himself to the lobby to shoot two brothers, one of whom publicly insulted one of his goons.

DUTCH SCHULTZ

Real name Arthur Flegenheimer. Notorious for his vicious and unfeeling manner. He and an associate once tied a rival to a chair for interrogation and after beating him to a pulp. Tied a gauze bandage - which had previously been wrapped around a gonorrhea infection - around his eyes. The man later went blind.

BENJAMIN 'BUGSY' SIEGEL

His womanizing was well documented and one of his first criminal rackets was involvement of sending girls in white slavery . . . Had triggermen gun down

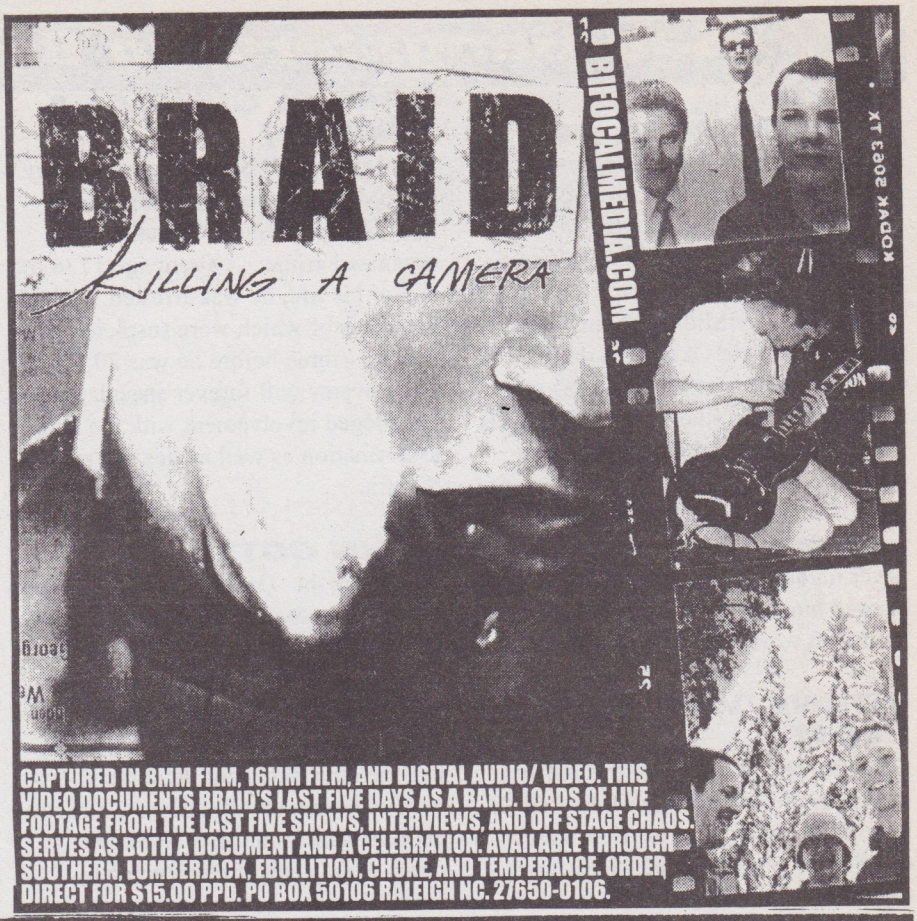
a former partner about to become a police informer and later had one of the same killers murdered.

EARL 'HYMIE' WEISS

Allegedly the only Chicago gangster Capone ever feared. In July 1921 he became the originator of the one way ride when he put two bullets into a rival hijacker s head, who had days earlier stolen a beer truck.

FRANKE YALE (1885-1927)

Real name Francesco Ioele, christened Yale . The first ever victim of a machine gun death in New York. Attributed with several gangland killings before reaching 20. Beginning in 1918 when he purchased partner-ownership of a Brooklyn bar, at least 20+ men would be murdered on the premises over a 10-year span.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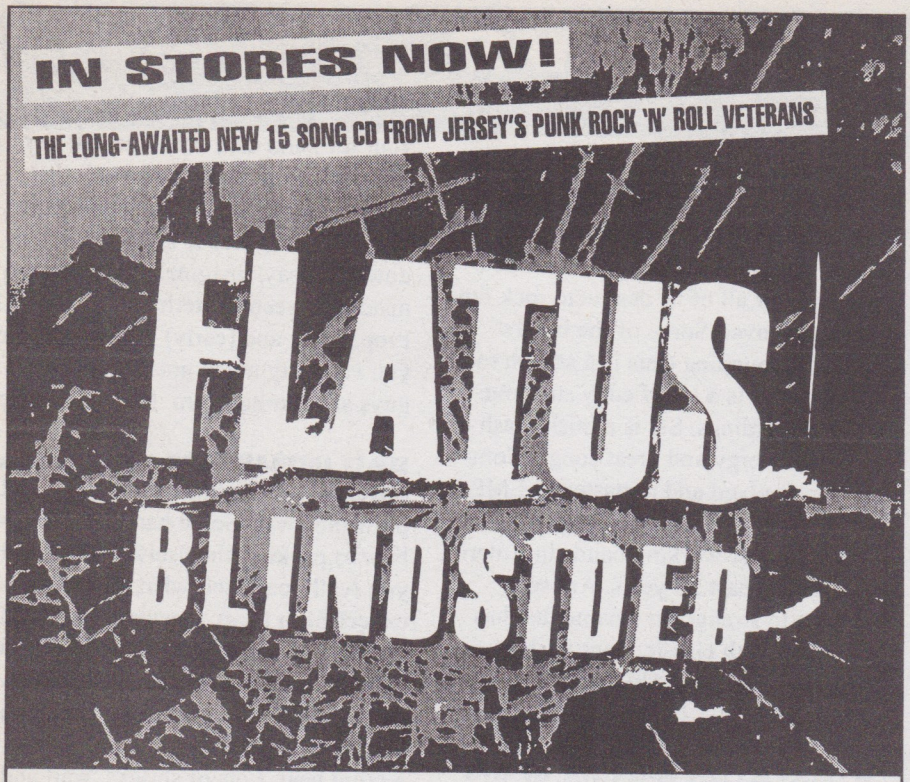

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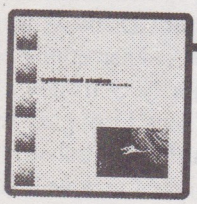

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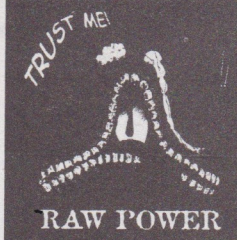

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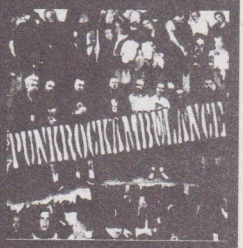

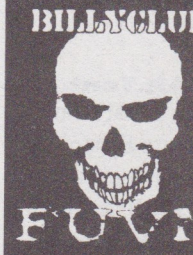

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Vinyl Views

THE ABORTED/ JUSTIFIED ANGER- split EP (Puke n' Vomit Records) The Aborted win this battle of the split vinyl war this time out, but not by a wide margin. What won me over was the manic punk cranked out by The Aborted which was harsh enough to remind me of the pack of DIS-bands of days gone by. Good stuff. Justified Anger, while a little more subdued than their counterparts, manage to up the tempo in their own rights. Unfortunately, they suffer from a tamer guitar sound which muffles their power just a bit. Still, a pretty good slice of harsh punk rock. !!!.5 Brad Mitchell

90 DAY MEN (it (is) it) critical band (Southern) Bored sung vocals and Pavement/Sonic Youth guitar noodling which quickly becomes excessive and redundant can only mean one thing: dated, pretentious alterno-rock. For all its lilting softness this REALLY could have used some spazzcore and noise to seriously shake things up. I ll be surprised if it doesn t take the average listener 90 days to get through this meandering drivel. ! Hamish

AMEBIX Arise (Alt.Tent.) Creepy, brooding doom metal from these anarco-crusties outta Bristol. While these guys may have influenced bands like Neurosis, Clutch, Sepultura and Napalm Death, you might be surprised to find the music is far more in line with early Killing Joke and Venom and rather gothic. Still, mayhem and chaos bubbles just below the surface. !! Hamish

ANTI-HEROS 1000 Nights of Chaos (Taang!) Live album of skinhead/Oi punk. Rowdiness and lotsa beer drinking. Passable covers of the Clash and Patti Smith (of which they send a big fuck you to PC types).! Hamish

ANTISEEN Southern Hospitality + Eat More Pussy (Man's Ruin) Two of Antiseen s finest rough-edge albums are slabbed together for all of us destructo rock fans to maul it over. Some of the band s roughest sounding (this is a stretch too, cause there is a lot of edgy stuff out there) recordings, SH is a mish-mash of extreme energy and great songs. Completely remixed and remastered, EMP is still a classic album by all rights. One of the hardest-working bands in America over the past 20 years, Antiseen deserve to strengthen a name that has come out with classic tunes such as My God Can Beat Up Your God, and Fuck All Y all. !!!!! Keith Carman

ATARI STAR Moving in the Still Frame (Johann's Face) 6-song EP of soft building and drifty emo. While not big on the melodic poppy front, this should still appear to fans of Midwest bands. Picture a mellow God s Reflex meets Weezer.!! Hamish

AVSKUM In the Spirit of Destruction (Prank) Crusty, thrashmetal punk 5 piece outta Sweden. The vocals are gravelly but hold off on being throat-piercing. The lyrics deal with financial greed, corporate cover-ups and takeover and government oppression. Yeah, it s political but not preachy. A sense of urgency to fight and tear down the system permeates this album. Musically in the realm of F-Minus too. !!!.5 Hamish

BACKSIDE - Ten Million Strong And Growing (El Poncho Loco Records) Backside are one of those snotty, arrogant Punk Rock bands that rip along at around ten thousand miles per hour, whilst barely pausing for breath between each song (and with sixteen tracks on offer, that means that in all likelihood, they ll be suffering from hypoxia after every show). Sure, it s nothing original, but it makes you tap your toes and sure beats the shit out of some of the weak arse pop shit that s trying to pass itself off as Punk Rock these days. I guess if I had to pin em down, I d say, imagine a four way tag match between Guttermouth, Union 13, Propagandi and (early) 7 Seconds, and you ve pretty much got where these guys are coming from. !!! Tim Cundle.

BAD INFLUENCE Last Cries (RRR) I must admit that this one did blow me away. Some bands just know how to package themselves so well, that you really can t tell what the hell to expect from them. Opening the disc, I was waiting for another emo band, but whoa! The words extremely aggressive barely touch Bad Influence. Their sound is akin to being caught in a tin can with a rabid bear. Lots of shrieks, wail and pandemonium. Heavy drums, fast pace and a growly singer give this band a uniquely cool edge. Fun, fast and just a little unnerving, this is a band to watch out for. !!!! Keith Carman

BLOODY SODS- Hate Of Mind EP (Mad Skull Records) Slightly better than average street punk. A stronger guitar tone would have really helped their sound. As is, the dual axe attack sounds a bit muffled.What the band does do in spades is a great vocal harmony in the choruses. They finish off their EP with a cover of THE EXPLOITED s Dead Cities so that may give you an indication of where they are coming from. !!! Brad Mitchell

BLUETIP Polymer (Dischord) Coming up with a distinct packaging scheme for CDs these days is a lot like trying to find something original on TV, not too likely. Somehow Bluetip has found a way. I can t say that I ve liked a lot of stuff that Dischord has released but this could very well change with Bluetip. I have the feeling that their live shows are where they shine, with the studio taking away much of their intensity. Playing a brand of post-punk/hard-

Vinyl Views

core similar to At the Drive-In, Bluetip have what it takes to rock the masses. !!!! Steve Servos

BORN FROM PAIN Reclaiming the Crown (Gangstyle) Growly metal bordering on death and grind and with an affinity for mosh groove breakdowns. This Dutch foursome seems to be in Hatebreed and One King Down territory, in spite of singing about typical metal subjects of Night, Shadows, Blood and Immortality. !.5 Hamish

CADILLAC BLINDSIDE Read the Book Seen the Movie (Soda Jerk) Catchy, upbeat emocore. Take the sincerity of Garrison, Movie Life, Jazz June and Over It. Throw it all in a blender and you ll get this fine album. !!! Hamish

THE CHUMPS- s/t EP (Turkey Baster Records) These four tracks are destined for the annals of vinyl mediocrity. Sloppy, jangly punk which only hints at the greatness The Chumps could have reached if they really gave a shit. A poor man s Forgotten Rebels poke out from time to time, such as on the second track Needle Beach , which has all the trappings of the three chord punk that I love so much. Other than that, The Chumps pretty much live up to their name. !! Brad Mitchell

COCK SPARRER England belongs to Me (Taang!) Longtime Brit punk rock n roll which if I m not mistaken, has been around 20+ years. This album is a collection of singles including covers of the Stones and Clash. Is there an end in sight? !! Hamish

CORPUSSE Surrender To The Passion (Total Zero) I don t know where the fuck this guy came from, but fuck I wish there more of them. One of the most hilarious, entertaining and fucking weird people to put out a slab of CD, Corpusse rants along with a stream-of-consciousness that reveals either a sick, demented child, or one that was locked in a closet, only to be released about three years ago when he reached 21. I d venture for the latter, guessing that he watched a TON of cheezy horror flicks whilst locked away. A big dude rambling along to the keyboard mishappenings of another. Who could ask for more !!!! Keith Carman

DEAD EMPTY - Blame Luck, Blame Fate (Cyclone Records) As far as I m concerned, when a release bears the Cyclone moniker, it means one thing. That the release you re holding in your hands, is a classic. Guess what kids? Dead Empty are no exception. The band pummel their way through this release, flattening all opposition with their brand of Street Punk that s been given a healthy Rock n Roll makeover. If like me, you believed that The Bruisers could do no wrong, then you re going to love these guys, the only band out there who can claim to have picked up where Al Barr s ill-fated mob left off. Incredible. !!!!.5. Tim Cundle.

DEAD NATION- Painless EP (Kangaroo Records) I can see all the punk purists cringing at this one. Dead Nation boast one hugely metallic sound. A sound so large in fact, that this almost passes for hardcore, but there are no obvious mosh parts or breakdowns to be found on here. The band is for the most part very harsh and speedy, save the title track which closes the vinyl, where Dead Nation really slow things down to a metallic dirge. I bet they like Monday Night Football and Budweiser. If there are a lot of crossover LP s in your collection from days of yore, this may be your bag. !!!.5 Brad Mitchell

DIABOLIKS Three Fur Burgers & A Chili Dog To Go! (Vinyl Japan) One look at this band, and you know exactly what you re going to hear. Three girls dressed in very revealing clothing, and a dude with crazy pork-chop sideburns reveal a 60 s beat-punk band that are fun, frolicky, and damned entertaining. Pushing the girlie-punk aspect to the hilt, the Diaboliks do have a degree of good, sassy rawk to them. Catchy vocals, poppy riffs and lots of backups make for a fun listen that won t exactly be an everyday thing, but will surely bring you out of a funk in about three seconds. !!!! Keith Carman

D.O.A. Something Better Change (Sudden Death) Re-released for the first time in two decades, SBC reiterates just why D.O.A. are heralded as one of Canada s greatest exports to this day. One can see just how Joey Shithead and crew actually started out as with direct influence from a lot of British punk, yet giving it a unique twist. With high energy, killer tracks and an overall feel of working-class desperation, SBC stands up to every punk band ever since, and kicks em in the ass. Don t forget who s boss, even if the boss forgets how to be one lately. !!!!! Keith Carman

DOWNSET Check Your People (Epitaph) You know, I still have to wonder just how a band like Downset actually got signed to a label like Epitaph. Coming across as having more influence from Nu Metal than Punk, Downset have that crunchy guitar here, hip-hop mid-tempo beat here kind of sound. Kick in a couple of low, low bass lines for fuel, and you can see how Korn kiddies would be picking this up by the crate load, while punkers laugh and go put on the Exploited. If I were reviewing this for Circus, it would be an all-star event. But for Caustic Truths, it gets. !!! Keith Carman

DOWNAWAY Never be Clever again (206) Speedy pop

Vinyl Views

punk ala Ten Foot Pole, Good Riddance, Strung Out and Diesel Boy. Sounds way too dated. ! Hamish

DROPKICK MURPHY'S/BUSINESS Mob Mentality (Taang!) Pretty much a streetpunk working class Oi tagteam. Both bands cover the others respective tunes as well as both singing together and submitting covers. 12 songs in all and originally meant as a splint 7. You needn t be a Swingin Utters or Social Distortion fan to dig this. Irish pride is in full effect. !! Hamish

ENSIGN For What It's Worth (Nitro) 4-song EP of good, solid, positive and sincere NJHC. Overall, the speed has given way to a more stripped down, metallic feel. Right from the go this will have your head nodding. !!! Hamish

FALSE PROPHETS Blind Roaches and Fat Vultures Phantasmagoric Beasts of the Reagan Era(Alternative Tentacles) A compilation of rarities, singles, and album tracks for the uninitiated and the diehards. False Prophets churn out a blend of straight up punk rock and hardcore, with the occasional, deliberately laughable attempt at rap. Youthful idealism and angry protest abound and maintain their vitality to this day. Don t get me wrong. I have nothing against social conscience so long as it s executed with passion and intelligence. !!!! Jack Link

FIELD DAY The Dawn Of A New Day (Onefoot Records) Regulars in the Calgary scene, Field Day continue to release strong punk records. This record is no exception. Even though the boys in Field Day stick pretty close to the generic punk rock song formula, they do so with fervor. Couple this with some great production quality and the combination is a pretty strong record. !!!.5 Steve Servos

FIGHTBACKS End Of An Era (1 mfa) See, this is one of those bands that you really want to love, cause they sound just like every other fucking band on the planet, but you really can t get into them partly because you spend half the time trying to figure out just WHO they sound like, and the other half wondering why they would ever put horns on punk. Nothing new, Fightback take the typical elements of influence (Bad Religion, NOFX, et al,) and make them into a tight, cohesive unit. While you won t find anything overtly stunning on this album, it is a very well-done effort that is pleasing to the ears. It s just all been done before. !!!.5 Keith Carman

FOREVER AND A DAY The Art of Creation (Eulogy) What struck me most about these guys is how much the vocals sound like Kevin Seconds New Wind/Ourselves era 7 Seconds. Too bad the inconsistent music is crap jumping in and out of ballady, jangly and annoying bar-bandish rock. The vocals also call to mind the singer of Joshua. 0 Hamish

FLUX CORED WIRE- Actions Speak Louder Than Words EP (MCR/ Sound Pollution) Now this is the style of blazing punk from the far east I like: over the top in terms of speed, yet still having a melodic and accessible edge to it. The song titles are in English, but sung in Japanese. When the music is this friggen insane who really cares? I just wanna air guitar to this stuff. !!!.5 Brad Mitchell

THE FORGOTTEN Keep the Corpses Quiet (TKO) The only thing I enjoy more than masturbating to the hotties in Maxim magazine is tooling around in my dad s BMW, my cd player cranking out punk rock. This low life acquaintance of mine who writes for some fanzine recommended this to me. What the hell does he know? No metal/ hip hop beats. I ve yet to see this band s video on Muchmusic. And all these people on the cd photo layout look like they sure could use a bath. I really don t want to think much while I cruise to tunes and these guys lyrics made my brain hurt. Forgotten? They should be. (!!!!) Jack Link

JOSH FREESE The Notorious One Man Orgy (Kung Foo) Considered to be one of the world s best drummers by some, Freese tosses out a solo record, playing all instruments except a few guitar solos, piano pieces and horns here and there. It s got a varied sound, obviously influenced by his work with the Vandals, Maynard Keenan from A Perfect Circle and Chris Cornell. Juvenile and hollow sounds, juvenile and hollow theme. I now know why he drums and doesn t sing. !!! Mel.

GLOOM- Mentally Achronistic 2000 EP (MCR/ Sound Pollution) And here we have the newest Gloom EP, still on vinyl, but with a cleaner sound thanks to a better (!) production. That is the irony this time around. I really like their older stuff a bit better as it featured a rawer sound. Yeah, the guitars are more like buzz saws on this release, but the band is just lacking the accessibility this time out. Still, the crust crowd should go ape for this. !!! Brad Mitchell

GLOOM- Speed Noise Hardcore Rags EP (MCR/ Sound Pollution) If there is one style of punk rock that really needs to stay on the vinyl 7 format, it s Japanese thrash. Sonically, this style of crust needs to be on vinyl: you just couldn t capture the guttural, raw sound any other way. And the great thing about Gloom (and some Jap thrash) is that no matter how insane and raw they get, you still are able to

Vinyl Views

bob your head or tap your foot to it. From what I can make out, this contains music written from 1989 to 1993. !!!.5 Brad Mitchell

GUITAR GANGSTERS Lord of the Dance (Rampant Music) The quick paced rhythm of this disc is ideal to lead a stadium of frenzied sports fans to shout and cheer. There is an enthusiastic charm to theses four tracks that will drive you from the bleachers and on to the field. Once there, you can t help but stomp, flail and boot the bejesus out of the beat. This is a testament that MUSIC IS FUN. !!!.5 Donna Jerret

THE HELLIONS- Technikiller Punkorama EP (Turkey Baster Records) This record is divided into a live side and a studio side, and kids, this bad boys kicks ass!!! THE HELLIONS have a huge, huge, thick guitar tone rivaling some hardcore bands by the sounds of it, but these Texans churn out some serious booze swillin punk rock with their thick sound. Dig the rock and roll guitar solos as the band cuts loose in the chorus. Great stuff! A definite must buy as well as is the need for a full length. !!!!.5 Brad Mitchell

HOPE CONSPIRACY Cold Blue (Equal Vision) Holy fuck, this album just smokes! If ever there was a perfect blend between RoySets-Five and Judas Factor, look no further and with further elements of Earth Crisis & Snapcase, this is a solid album from start to finish! You won t be disappointed. !!!!! Hamish

IN/HUMANITY Violent Resignation: The Great American Teenage Suicide Rebellion 1992-1998 (Prank) Screamy insane noise core akin to Assfactor 4 (will somebody ... ANYBODY PLEASE release AF4 on CD?) This is essentially an anthology. 42 tracks in all. The very chaotic and disturbed harshness might make it difficult for some to take all this in, in one listen. !!! Hamish

(INTERNATIONAL) NOISE CONSPIRACY The First Conspiracy (G-7 Welcoming Committee) The First INC album of 60 s -ish, mod and garage stripped down postpunk. Raw, tight sociopolitical protect/activism never sounded so good. !!! Hamish

JESUS PHILBIN Subterranean Electronic Blasphemy (Satan's Pimp) Simply put, experiments in industrial amolent. Clangs, rattles, liquid drips, sizzles, squeaks and steam pipes. This seems more about menacing machinery than music period. Picture any film about some space crew on their way to that eerie, uninhabitable planet and you ve got the idea. Beware of listening to this if tripped out on drugs. Neurosis and Tribes of Neurot fans welcome. !!.5 Hamish

JETS TO BRAZIL Four Cornered Night (Jade Tree) A lot of people have griped their disappointment over this 2nd JTB album. Particularly over the heart-on-sleeve sings. If Blake has in fact gotten in touch with some sensitive side, I don t think it necessarily makes the softer, slower tracks wimpy. Weak? Maybe a little but there certainly is maturity here as the songs seem more expansive than those on Orange Rhyming Dictionary . The melodic pop is still here but the jury s still out on how this will fare in the long run. This album will take more than a few listens but in time I think it ll go down as under-appreciated. !!! Hamish

KEEPSAKE She hums like a radio (Eulogy) 5-song EP of light, breezy emo that breaks into some aggressive shouting. Unfortunately not enough as the anger is a compliment that would work here. There s always hope I guess. This is even more in tune to Joshua and labelmates FAAD. !! Hamish

LOIKAEMIE Ihr Fur Uns Und Wir Fur Euch (Knock Out) For all the German I know the title of this disc could very well be we chomp nazi bratwursts. But with a couple of ska songs and chants of Spirit of 69, I doubt these gents have fascist inclinations. And even if they did, I d still give this a solid review because this band rocks just as hard as their English speaking peers. I also find that anything sung in German tends to sound that much harsher. Fierce, brutal, and simple (not in a negative sense), this release will make a fine addition to any skinhead s cd library. !!!! Jack Link

MINOR DISTURBANCE Bullet For You (Run and Hide) Yet another batch of teenage loser anthems, wallowing in bad production values, raging hormones, and a hearty hurrah to all things punk rock. Does this sound like your cup of tea? You can contact them at PO Box 35094, Phila. PA 19128 U.S.A. If not, fuck you! Add one more exclamation point if your bumper sticker reads i luv punk rock. !! Jack Link

THE HIVES-Veni Vidi Vicious (EPITAPH RECORDS) Coming from a small country town in Sweden, this album is not what I was expecting; the album is great! It s got a 50 s/ 60 s rockabilly flare with a vibrant 70 s punk infusion. Considering the amount of crap that is presently making up record companies THE HIVES sophomore album is a miracle; and it is a full CD (12 tracks total) not just filler. The five guys which make up THE HIVES has created a record that s a blast to drive to; being both fast and

Vinyl Views

intense yet not so hard as to make you forget its pure punk rock. Do yourself a favor and get this CD. THE HIVES also have a debut album entitled Barely Legal that was released in 97 and an EP that was released in 98 containing four songs which was entitled D-I-O-T. If these are anything like their new stuff it would be worth the extra effort to hunt them down. !!!!! Tom Cockriel

HORACE PINKER/ DOC HOPPER- Suck Shit Split EP (Off Time Records) Four tracks of cutesy punk rock from these teeny bopper worshipped bands. Neither one of the two bands have much of an edge to them so you ll probably either see em on the big music video station soon (if not already), or playing a high school prom dance somewhere in rural California. !.5 Brad Mitchell

HUDSON MACK People For People (Red Anthem) Taking slight elements of all styles of punk and rock, Hudson Mack have a style that instantly appealing to many types of punker. Their infusion of the melodic aspects of emo, the quick-tempo of SoCal, and the straight-ahead kick of rock make for an album that is entertaining on all fronts. While it is true that the actual recording leaves something to be desired, this is a small point of contention, as the overall point gets across clearly and quickly. Maybe with a bit more time, they ll be able to produce themselves like they deserve to sound. !!!! Keith Carman

IDOL PUNCH- Culture Market EP (MCR/ Sound Pollution) Except for the mid-paced instrumental opening track on side B, I couldn t keep up to this barrage of Japanese thrash. The five tracks on here are very cleanly played and recorded, it s just that I had to keep checking if 45 rpm was the correct speed for this EP. Yup, it s right, just as it is labeled onthe vinyl. I simply couldn t catch my breath long enough to enjoy it. Lots of scream alongs... if you can understand Japanese. The whole thing was over in about six minutes. !! Brad Mitchell

IGGY AND THE STOOGES Michigan Palace 10/6/73 (Bomp!) At this live performance, Iggy was as ripe for arrest as he was ready to rock. Volatile and vocal, the American punk legend intersperses such classic Stooges songs as Raw Power, Gimme Danger and Search & Destroy with invective rants. Recorded four months before the group s incendiary explosion, this captures the James Williamson-era Iggy & The Stooges at the peak of their career but before wholesale destruction set in. Previously, these tracks only saw the light of day as bonus tracks on European recordings. !!!! Tom Tearaway

IGGY POP Live in NYC (King Biscuit) Iggy has resurfaced more times than a body in the Detroit river and Each time with something a little different than the time before. Here we have Iggy in his BLAH BLAH BLAH phase, circa 1986, a period where he is arguably at his height at least in terms of commercial identifiability. Everyone had heard something of the legend but it was here where they actually got to see it via MTV, the concert stage and all the other little technical progressions that took hold of music media in the mid-eighties. This is Iggy in the middle of a new Pop/Punk collision where he needn t roll around on broken glass to get a rise out of an audience, all he had to do was show up and, get this, sing. Yep, this is where Iggy became a genuine singer as opposed to the grunts and snarls that carried him through the early years of THE STOOGES. Iggy was also drug free, he says, and in the best physical shape of his life so there is a noticeable strength behind this musical attack that you can t find on any of Iggy s studio records. Recorded in New York City at the Ritz for broadcast on the King Biscuit Flower Hour radio show the set was 16 songs and an hour long with as much fire as could be managed by the David Bowie prot g . In fact, the set contained no less than eight tracks co-written with Bowie including what was still a fairly recent hit for Bowie, China Girl. Also of particular merit was the backing band chosen for this tour, Andy McCoy of HANOI ROCKS, Alvin Gibbs of the UK SUBS, Paul Garristo of the PSYCHEDELIC FURS and Seamus Beaghen of MADNESS combined with Pop to make what is arguably the tightest and most driving group to perform these songs, a modern punk super group with astounding commercial appeal. Most of the hits are included here with the notable exception of Seek and Destroy still, with Lust For Life, Real Wild Child, Blah, Blah, Blah, Gimme Danger, I Got a Right and the bonus track of I Wanna Be Your Dog you pretty much have an Iggy Pop greatest hits-live disc anyway. So, thanks to King Biscuit we all can now ditch the crappy sounding bootlegs that we have been listening to for better than a decade in favor of this hiss-less, snap-less, and pop-less version with liner notes and pictures, hell, it is almost like you are there! !!!!! David Wilson

THE JOCKS The Top Three Answers On The Board (New Disorder Records) This disc is the trip inside little Johnny s head when he s sent to the corner for not knowing the top three answers on the board. Wild and rebellious, screams of misplaced anger. If you had one of those days, the world has pissed you off and you need to vent, reach for this disc and join John in the corner. The beat is great to bang out your bereavement. !!! Donna Jerret

WAYNE KRAMER AND THE

Vinyl Views

PINK FAIRIES Cocaine Blues (Bomp!) Released from prison for drug trafficking and rebounding from a heroin habit, Wayne Kramer made it to England to perform and record with 70 s rock legends The Pink Fairies. This album includes live and studio material.Somewhat uninspiring, the studio material does include such highlights as Ramblin Rose and a version of Jimmy Cliff s The Harder They Come. The on-stage exorcism and much looser live performance are what is really valuable on this disc. Beside If you re Going to the City, Heavy Music and a violent Kick out the Jams, there is the title track. Here Brother Kramer interrupts the blues-punk jam with a lengthy tale; the true story of how he landed in jail. !!! Tom Tearaway

LAMBS S/T (Devil Doll) Gritty, dirty devil rock, the Lambs are quite the opposite of their innocent sounding name. Heavy, pounding drums, lots of low-end guitar chugging and a crisp mix of both melody and balls-out hollering make for the perfect seek n destroy kind of album. A high-paced rocker that knows just when to bring you down and then blast you back against the wall, this is the music you put on in the car when you ve got a wide open road, lots of horses, and too much adrenaline. It never felt so good to be this grimy.!!!!.5 Keith Carman

LOIKAEMIE Ihr Fur Uns Und Wir Fur Euch (Knock Out) For all the German I know the title of this disc could very well be we chomp nazi bratwursts. But with a couple of ska songs and chants of Spirit of 69, I doubt these gents have fascist inclinations. And even if they did, I d still give this a solid review because this band rocks just as hard as their English speaking peers. I also find that anything sung in German tends to sound that much harsher. Fierce, brutal, and simple (not in a negative sense), this release will make a fine addition to any skinhead s cd library. !!!! Jack Link

THE MEATJOY/ MENSEN- Split EP (Fandango Records) Yeah, yeah, YEAH! This is the shit. Both bands are female fronted dirty punk rock and roll! Not as harsh as The Distillers, but both bands on the vinyl share the same rough edge as them. I would have liked a longer EP, as only one track from each band just whets my appetite, but let me tell ya, I am salivating! Great stuff and I hope Junk Records or another label of that ilk is paying attention. This would have been perfect if there were more tracks on here. But as is... !!!!.5 Brad Mitchell

MINOR DISTURBANCE Bullet For You (Run and Hide) Yet another batch of teenage loser anthems, wallowing in bad production values, raging hormones, and a hearty hurrah to all things punk rock. Does this sound like your cup of tea? You can contact them at PO Box 35094, Phila. PA 19128 U.S.A. If not, fuck you! Add one more exclamation point if your bumper sticker reads i luv punk rock. !! Jack Link

MISTREATERS Grab them cakes (Big Neck) Growly garage punk akin to Murder City Devils, Zeke and SpeedDealer. While certainly not as fast as those bands, definitely in the same spirit. Better sound on the vocals would ve been nice. !! Hamish

MUDHONEY Here Comes Sickness: The Best of the BBC Recordings (Fuel 2000) With the grunge movement as a catalyst, Mudhoney brought back to the rock stage the sound of Blue Cheer; big, bold and audacious. Fast and loose likejuiced death ride down ocean coast highways, Here Comes Sickness rips and rocks like the Mudhoney you know. Mudhoney only did two BBC recordings, one in 1989 and one in 1995. 1989 was during their tour supporting Sonic Youth, less than a year after forming. Their 1995 return to the BBC studios found the group exercising demons in the supportive UK atmosphere after being pushed onto a major label by Sub Pop financial problems. As such, this collection bookends the career of the 90 s loudest and heaviest hard rock heroes. !!!! Tom Tearaway

MODERN LOVERS The Original Modern Lovers (Bomp!) With a sound that is part Velvet Underground rock deconstruction and part pure-pop confection, Jonathan Richman s Modern Lovers still sounds experimental and avant-garde today. In the minimalist angst, Richman sings of simple, human emotions like the desire for a girlfriend and teen escapism. It is interesting that this collection of early 70 s recordings is decorated in self-esteem ads from the 50 s. Part of the Modern Lover s charm is that while creating the era s most cutting edge American rock they yearned for basic acceptance in bubble gum verses with angry art chords. Beside Richman s solo success, the group launched careers for Jerry Harrison (Talking Heads) and David Robinson (The Cars). The notes tell Richman s and produce Kim Fowley s conflicting stories on Fowley s historical discovery of the seminal Boston band. !!!! Tom Tearaway

THE NAPTOWN AMPLIFIER CO. The Indiana Waltz (Fat Max Records) Reach for this disc if you need to be lulled into a state of tranquility. Within this gentle art of sound there exists an escape hatch. Once opened, you tumble down a dark tunnel, the walls are lined with musical notes colliding in harmony, a little roughness brushes against you before your fall is broken by a thousand down pillows. Here you rest until the 13th track, the wiser dog replys It's a Beautiful Life and you have nowhere to go ,

Vinyl Views

so you stay and listen to the Indiana Waltz again. !!!! Donna Jerret

NIP DRIVERS - Destroy Whitey / Oh Blessed Freak Show (Taang!) This is the only time I ve ever going to say this, so here goes...thanks Curtis, and Taang!!. It was about time someone got around to making sure these lunatics were out there again! At last, I can give the worn out vinyl a break. Both albums (even remastered) still sound as crazy and out there as they originally did, when this lot were out there wreaking havoc in the 80 s. I guess the only bands that even came close to these guys were The Freeze and The Crucifucks. Shit, you know a record is doing something right when it even gets a bad tempered old bastard like me slamming around the room. There s no ska, no pop shit, no posing for the kids , just pure, undiluted Punk Rock. !!!! Tim Cundle.

NO-MEN Non Sapiens, Non Sense (Tocado) Playful, high-spirited tomfoolery will make the humourless and the tight-assed wince. The No-Men claim to be offspring of alien impregnation and have landed to spread their infectious gospel of goofiness. Paens to black metalheads, bucking the system, and a reworking of The Exploited s U.S.A. in Dutch are just a few of the many highlights on this chucklefest. Really, I m too easily amused. Yet another fine international release where half the songs are in a foreign language and I don t know what the fuck they re saying. !!! Jack Link

THE NO WTO COMBO From the Battle in Seattle (Alternative Tentacles) While I ve never been one for the rantings of Dead Kennedy spearhead Jello Biafra, I must admit that this project is quite interesting. It takes some of Biafra s political views (go figure), and mixes them with the musical jams of Krist Novoselic (Nirvana, a failed Sweet 75), Kim Thayil (Soundgarden) and Gina Mainwal (Who Knows). The way the musicians work with the up-and-down dynamics of Biafra are interesting, and occasionally brilliant. And though one would be hard-pressed to want to listen to this over and over again (spoken-words are rarely enduring), I must say that the four songs on this disc are fast, peppy and entertaining. A nice change of pace once in a while, and way better than most of the stuff these people have been doing lately anyway. !!!.5 Keith Carman

OOZZIES Nation Out of Hand (Industrial Strength) Speekpunk on a heavy lyrical these of combating injustice. If you re into Murphy s Law or Black Flag you might wanna check into this. Produced by ex-DK East Bay Ray. !! Hamish

PELE The Nudes (Polyvinyl) I don t want to lay into this record too badly, but come on, enough already. Math-rock and emo is good and I m a big fan, but an eight song instrumental disc isn t something I can handle. Think of American Football (the band, dummy) without the same kick. With each song averaging out to well over four minutes in length I don t see where they re going with it.!! Steve Servos

PENNYWISELive @ the Key Club (Epitaph) I was expecting this to be rather flat because (at the risk of upsetting some with my blasphemy) every time I ve seen Pennywise, they just seem to leave a lot to be desired. Chalk it up to off nights, bad venues with lousy sound . . . whatever. Thankfully, this is quite decent seeing that I was quite set to ignore this. !!! Hamish

PORTRAIT OF POVERTY- Poor Prince's Of Punk Power EP (Mad Skull Records) You will really have to stretch to like this one unless latter day English Dogs, GBH, MOD, or Crumbsuckers is your bag. P.O.P. are very stripped down thrash, but yet not really resembling hardcore either. I think this band is really going to find it tough to find a following, and their crappy attempt at power punk on the one track Check Ya (500 Miles) doesn t help matters.A risky purchase. !.5 Brad Mitchell

THE PUT-DOWNS- National Band Of Texas EP (Turkey Baster Records) I certainly hope they aren t, because this is very generic, bland, three chord punk at its by-the-numbers best. I don t think the band changes chords, tempo, or drum beats once on the four songs on here. Geez, even the singer is flat. ! Brad Mitchell

THE PSYCHOTIC REACTION- s/t EP (Detour Records) Imagine, if you will, The Doors fronted by Joey Ramone. And no, that s not a good thing. This band sounds pretty much as you would think after that description. Tunes that would sound right at home in the next Austin Powers sequel, with a slight punky edge. C mon guys, I want to fucking ROCK! This rates a big, fat zilch. Brad Mitchell

THE RECLUSIVES- s/t EP (Turkey Baster Records) The Reclusives style of catchy, gritty punk would certainly sit well with the punk rock n roll crowd. Aside from the surf flavored guitar solos, the four tracks boast some cool, hooky rock n roll leads. I d like to see how they would do on a full length cause I d be willing to bet the band would be even more infectious. A nice closer to the next comp tape I make for my truck. !!!.5 Brad Mitchell

RIGHTEOUS And The Saga Begin (Chapter 11/TKO Records) Football hooligans pick up instruments and sing songs about drinking, fighting and fucking! Big ups for catchy titles like Anti-Goth Song and Give Peace A Kick In The Face . For fans only. !! Nick

RIOTGUN- Bound And

Vinyl Views

Gagged EP (Mad Skull Records) The band grabs the bull by the horns from the get-go as they open this six song EP with The Dead Boys Sonic Reducer . A great start. While few present day bands can match the Dead Boys, Riot Gun are certainly more than competent enough in keeping my interest. Beer drinkin , middle finger flashin , lyric shoutin punk fucking rock. Stripped down and ready to haul ass. Isn t that what punk rock is about? !!!! Brad Mitchell

SATANIC SURFERS Fragments and Fractions (Bad Taste) What a misnomer, with absolutely no surfing or satanism to speak of. I ve been hoodwinked. I ve also been bombarded with a lot of punk pop social awareness whininess and rah rah rock n roll rebellion. There s no denying that the band can write and perform decent material. I m sure that deep in the wilds of Caustic Truthsdom exist Satanic Surfing afficiendos fighting the good fight, listening to rock records, and raising their fists in defiance. But I can honestly say that I m not one of them. !! Jack Link

THE SHUT-UPS- Haul Off And Smack Your Ass EP (Junk Records) When a band thanks Sal from Electric Frankenstein first and foremost on their sleeve, I knew I was going to love em. The Shut-Ups deliver up tempo punk rock n roll (not unlike E.F.) which after the first listen made me run out and put my leather and boots on. I think I played this thing five times in a row. Get this, or I will haul off and smack YOUR ass! An instant favorite of mine. Red vinyl. !!!!! Brad Mitchell

SISSIES Geography (Plan It X) You know, sometimes you can love a band for their ambition, but hate them for their sound. The Sissies are one of those bands by all means. Another band who are far too desperate to get some product out in an effort to grab the brass ring, the Sissies have spunk, but have virtually nothing to back it up. Bad singing, limited musical abilities and insanely cheezy lyrics make the band sound like two high school girls that hooked up with a good drummer and play music to their diary entries. Maybe in a couple of years girls, but not today. !!.5 Keith Carman

SLAB Agony Of Da Feet (Onset) With this album, Slab prove themselves to be worthy of a lot more attention than they re probably getting right now. Taking a huge lesson from Bad Religion, Slab are a touch derivative of their punk rock ancestors, but their energy and intelligent songwriting prove them to be deserving of taking another step up the punk rock ladder. Quick tempos, thoughtful lyrics and smooth song structure are mature and energetic. It will be cool to see how these guys grow over the years. !!!! Keith Carman

SLOPPY MEATEATERS Shameless Self-Promotion (Orange Peal) Holy shit, an indie band that almost have it allalmost. The Sloppy Meateaters have a lot going for them, with tight riffs, catchy speed and a style that sticks close to SoCal, but doesn t follow it so closely, that it s just another carbon-copy. The downside? The vocals are borderline atrocious, as it sounds like the singer has barely hit puberty. Not that he s way off key or anything, but he sounds so young and inexperience, that he is detracting from the whole. With so many great points behind them, how could they overlook this? I don t know, but maybe they ll get it right and push themselves further into the limelight. !!!.5 Keith Carman

DICK SPIKIE/ THE THUG HOSTAGE- Split EP (MCR/ Dynamite Record) Here s a new one for me; Japanese oi! Sounds kind of like an oxymoron doesn t it? Actually, it is a fun record especially when you listen and read the lyrics to The Thug Hostage s We Are the Boot Boys . You really want to hoist a frosty one just to them after that track. Dick Spikie have a little thicker sound than TTH, but anyone with a love for oi! should enjoy this. !!!-Brad Mitchell

STRAIGHTFACED Pulling Teeth (Epitaph) Johnny s throat-grating vocals never sounded so good. By far the band s most groove-laden, ominous and crescendo-driven release to date. Tight building, very cohesive California hc. Pick this up. !!!!! Hamish

STRYCHNINE Born too Loose (Industrial Strength) Rumbling East Bay punk that annoyingly employs Metal singer wailing that bears a striking resemblance to Skid Row s Sebastian Bach. I shit you not. Aside from this awful incorporation they find the time to cover Willie Nelson, Kiss & Poison Idea. !!!! Hamish

SWALLOWING SHIT S/t (G-7 Welcoming Committee) An anthology from this Winnipeg chaotic noisecore unit. Crazy and metallic and surprisingly humorous. If bands like Asshole Parade and Dillinger Escape Plan are your cup of tea, this would be worth checking into. Members have moved on to Propaganhi & Malefaction. !! Hamish

SWINGING UTTERS S/T CD (Fat Wreck Chords) I bet these guys wished they were from Ireland, but they re from San Francisco or some city near that region. They probably drink a lot of beer I can t afford too. They play punk rock that is pretty UK influenced, and pretty blah but I ll probably listen to this CD again in like 6 months and fall in love with it. I mean, you ve heard them already, so you know what it s all about. I m a big jerk. !! Andrew Wallace

Vinyl Views

SYNTHETIC 16 Your Water (Resurrection A.D.) Soft and at times dreamy-ish alternorock. This has emo and very slight brooking punk elements, but the pace is just too draggy. ! Hamish

THE TEMPLARS Biaus Seignor Freres (TKO) With a nod to Spanish horror director Armando de Ossorio s blind dead, The Templars early sessions rock with heart-ripping fury. Carl Templar s vocals are suitably abrasive, backed by an ever-changing but no nonsense line-up. The songs display a marked progression in both writing and anger, simple yet effective. Highly recommended to the shaved head and boot stomping persuasion. Chansons de Geste? That must be French for Songs to break heads to. !!!! Jack Link

TERMINUS CITY- Castle EP (Mad Skull Records) I am surprised that GMM Records didn t snap these boys up, as that label is home to a lot of US street punk. In fact, both Terminus City and GMM hail from Atlanta, hmm... the plot thickens! Anyway, two standard fare tracks of street punk (minus the oi!) with the obligatory bass guitar acrobatics and trademark gruff vocals are what you get on this release. Oh, and they also cover Hard Times by The Cro-Mags on here too. The band also wants you to know the two tracks on here can be found on their full length out now on TKOrecords. In case that means anything more to you. !! Brad Mitchell

THE VALENTINE KILLERS- Let It Burn EP (Junk Records) Ahhh.... another quality release from the epitome of sleaze punk, Junk Records. No matter what comes across my ears from this style of punk rock, I go ape shit for it. Chalk up another winner from the punk n roll genre. I think I m gonna go an order the three Junk Records comps available right now and lock myself in my room for a few days. Red Vinyl. !!!!! Brad Mitchell

THE VICE PRINCIPALS- Wolfman Amadeus Jackboot b/w Showdown EP (Junk Records) The way the title track set me up was absolutely priceless. I was really psyched to love this band. The Vice Principals are great sleaze punk that Junk Records is known for. That was side A. The flip, Showdown was a let down. It was a slower number which really set me back. I don t mind the slowstuff, but make it interesting. It was just too repetitious for my liking. Iwould wait for another EP to make sure they were heading in the right direction before I shelled out for a full length. If it comes out like the title track, we d have a winner. !!.5 Brad Mitchell

VICE SQUAD Lo-Fi Life (Sudden Death/Muck) Well, it s fucking good to know that Vice Squad still have what it takes to put out a kick-ass album. With a sound that mixed equal parts late 70 s punk with mid-80 s New Wave, these kids are a timeless bit of fun. Fucking great production means clear sound and enjoyable tracks. High-energy songs that get the adrenaline pumping so fast and hard, you ll be climbing the same walls you wanna tear down. But at least you ll feel fucking good while you do it. If this is the Lo-Fi Life, count me in! !!!!.5 Keith Carman

VITA-VERBUM-LUX/ PHYCUS- Split EP (Total Zero Records)
Useless experimental noise feedback crap. This does shit for me and bottom line THIS DOES NOT ROCK. It might be useful as a soundtrack to some of my nightmares, but as it stands I ve basically lost 13 minutes of my life that I will never get back. This rates a zilch. Brad Mitchell

VOODOOGLOWSKULLS The Potty Training Years (El Pocho Coco/Voodoo Entertainment) A re-release of their first album before signing to Dr. Strange. Some of these tracks, eventually found their way onto Who Is . . This is and Firme . Sound quality is rough and poor and the covers of the Clash & Descendents are forgettably throw away. These guys have really gone downhill and must be outta ideas to dig this garbage outta the vaults. A shame and a waste. 0 Hamish

THE WANDERER Only Lovers Left Alive (Captain Oi) Out of the ashes of punk rock arise the Wanderers. Comprised of ex-members of Sham 69 and Stiv Bators from the Dead Boys, they originally released Only Lovers Left Alive in 1981. Its a concept album based upon an angry young man finding ex-CIA man, Dr. Peter Beter s secret tapes outlining the shadowy machinations of government. Despite this theme being a little clich d after 10 years, this album is pretty good if you can get over the poncy keyboards.!!! Nick.

VARIOUS ARTISTS Disarming Violence (Fast Music)
It s really becoming commonplace for these cause compilations to flood the market, making kids wonder just which one they should be buying. And then comes the guilt of if I buy this one, but not this one, I save the one-armed sloth, but not the chronic masturbators, but then they just get suckered into buying shit. Thankfully, this comp is an honestly strong one, featuring cool tracks by the likes of All, NOFX, Pinhead Circus, Blanks 77, Agnostic Front and more. Plus, it s for a no-guns coalition. So, you buy good tunes for a good cause. Now go! !!!!.5 Keith Carman

V/A The Ecstasy of the Agony (Alt. Tent) 30-song label sampler with a few exclusive and previ-

ously un-released tracks. Nomeansno, Pitchshifter, SNFU, Land, Noam Chomsky, Mumia, Angela Davis, Jello, Howard Zinn and Wesley Willis are the more notables here. ! Hamish

VA the "Gone With The Wind" Of Punk Rock Samplers (Kung Fu Records)
I feel a little ripped off when a sampler mostly includes previously released tracks. I know that the purpose of these samplers is to turn people on to bands, and then have them buy records, but come one, 13 of 19 tracks already released, why would anyone buy this? The songs that did make it on are good, but focus on the heavy hitters of Kung Fu Records; namely the Ataris, Vandals and the Assorted Jelly Beans (over half the tracks are these three bands).!!.5 Steve Servos

V/A- This Is Kangaroo Not Berkeley EP (Kangaroo Records) 12 bands and 7 inches. How do they do it? Ensure the bands on the compilation have the punk rock accelerator planted firmly to the floor with nary a break between the tracks. REAL SHIT, TRENCH COAT ARMY, POSITIVELY NEGATIVE, THE UNDISPUTED HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD, KOZIK, U.S.V., THE DESPISED, DEAD NATION, OUT COLD, THE NEIGHBOURS, and BREZHNEV are the dirty dozen on here, all cranking out up tempo punk but without a real stand out track or band. !!.5 Brad Mitchell

VA True As Steel (Bricks)
Mods vs. Rockers, Japanese style! Loud and aggressive songs that don t take shit from nobody. Six bands offer up two songs each about pissed, with Clampdown standing out as the best of the bunch. Not for thick geezers.
!!! Nick

PICK OF ISSUE #77:

The Valentine Killers: Let It Burn EP

Antiseen: Southern Hospitality + Eat More
The Hives: Veni Vidi Vicious

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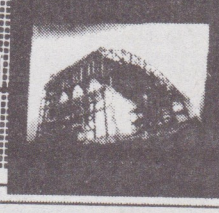

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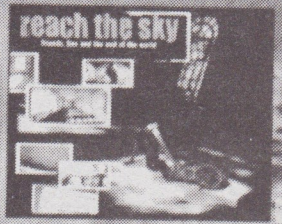

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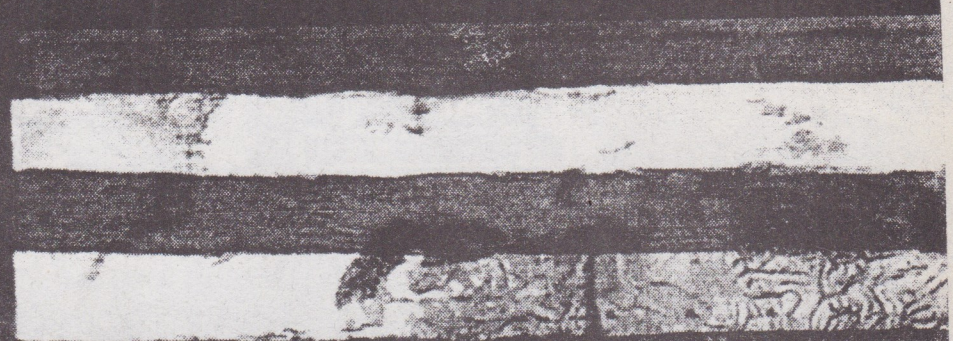

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Hey there,

I have sent you issue #77 which I hope you enjoy. Issue #78 is hopefully going to be an interesting issue for us as we prepare to make this issue a major milestone for us. **We are wanting to go gloss** aswell as increase our **circulation of up to 10,000**. As more and more people are interested in our publication, it has been pretty obvious to take Caustic Truths! to the next level. As we have been in print for over 9 years, it is time to give it **more visibility in the marketplace across North America**. As a result, we got new ad rates which are to support our new ambition:

AD TYPE	*DIMENSION*	*AD RATE ($US)*
1/6 Page	2 3/8" x 5"	25
1/3 Page Long	2 3/8" x 10"	70
1/3 Page Square	4 7/8" x 5"	80
½ Page	7 ¼" x 5"	150
Full Page	7 ¼" x 10"	300
Full Page Premium	7 ¼" x 10"	400

Premium is back cover or inside covers. Please specify which one you would like. .
Please provide artwork in TIFF form specified at 300 dots per inch. This can be provided on CDR or Zip. We can send back any media you might need.
Let us know if you'd be interested in doing color.
Deadlines for #78; Ad booking is needed by **Feb 26th** while the artwork will be needed by **March 2.**
No Major Label Ads Will Be Accepted!
Make payments out to Caustic Truths Communications.

Issue #78 already has stories on bands who have been ripped off which include Dead Kennedys, Electric Frankenstein, Pollen, and others. We also have a tremendous amount of stories including tips on how to rip off stuff from Corporate America and the like. We are attempting to make this our thickest issue!

Our zine will be distributed by Insound, Saul Goodman, Gordon and Gotch, and Maginal. We hope to increase our circulation through other distributors since we have joined the Independent Press Association. **If you would like to comment on our new ad rates, please let us know what you think as it is important to us.**

Our next issue (#79) will be stories on Heart Breaks and the like so get your pens ready for this.
Happy Valentine's Day,

Richard and the Hard Working Caustic Staff,

P.S. Also, please let us know if you are distributed by Koch in Canada. Please provide us your email as this is our primary way of keeping in contact.

My name is: _____
My company/organization is: _____
My email is: _____.
Please send this information to the above contact.